United Nations A/57/56

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 February 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session

Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their thirteenth meeting, held at Geneva from 18 to 22 June 2001, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 49/178 of 23 December 1994 and 55/90 of 4 December 2000.

02-24459 (E) 060302

Report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their thirteenth meeting

I. Introduction

1. Since the adoption of its resolution 37/44 on 3 December 1982, the General Assembly has continuously kept under review the issue of the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments. Those matters have also received careful attention during the various sessions of human rights treaty bodies, at some of the meetings of States parties and at meetings of other organs such as the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights.

2. The meetings of the chairpersons were convened by the Secretary-General biennially from 1988 until 1994 and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/178 of 23 December 1994, annually since 1995. In its resolution 55/90, the Assembly welcomed the reports of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their eleventh and twelfth meetings, held at Geneva from 31 May to 4 June 1999 and from 5 to 8 June 2000, respectively (A/54/805, annex; and A/55/206, annex) and took note of their conclusions and recommendations. The General Assembly encouraged enhanced cooperation and coordination between the treaty bodies, encouraging each treaty body to give careful consideration to the relevant conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports. The Assembly also welcomed the initiative of the chairpersons of inviting representatives of Member States to participate in a dialogue and encouraged continuation of this practice. The General Assembly decided to continue to give priority consideration at its fifty-seventh session to the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, in the light of the deliberations of the Commission on Human Rights, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

3. The thirteenth meeting of chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies was convened by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 49/178 and 55/90 of 4 December 2000. The report of that meeting is contained herein.

II. Organization of the meeting

4. The meeting was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 18 to 22 June 2001. The following chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies attended: Charlotte Abaka (Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women), Prafullachandra N. Bhagwati (Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee), Virginia Bonoan-Dandan (Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), Peter T. Burns (Chairperson of the Committee against Torture), Michael E. Sherifis (Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination), Jakob Egbert Doek (Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child). Mr. Sherifis was elected Chairperson/Rapporteur of the meeting and Ms. Abaka was elected Vice-Chairperson. At their opening meeting, the chairpersons adopted the agenda, with modifications, and the programme of work. The agenda, as adopted, is contained in annex I to the present report. The list of documents made available to the meeting is contained in annex II.

5. On behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights addressed the chairpersons on 18 June 2001. The High Commissioner addressed the chairpersons on 22 June 2001.

6. The meeting was also addressed by the Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

7. On 18 June, the chairpersons held a meeting with the Special Adviser to the High Commissioner for Human Rights on corporate social responsibility.

8. On 19 June, the chairpersons held a meeting with the Expanded Bureau of the Commission on Human Rights. A meeting was also held with Antoanella Iulia Motoc, the Chairperson of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fifty-second session.

9. On 20 June, the chairpersons convened a meeting with the representatives of 61 States parties to discuss

views on the functioning of the human rights treaty bodies.

10. On the afternoon of 21 June, the chairpersons held a joint meeting with the participants at the eighth meeting of special rapporteurs and representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures system of the Commission on Human Rights and of the advisory services programme. The joint meeting was opened by the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and also included an exchange with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

11. During the week, the chairpersons were briefed by the Secretariat on the preparations for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and on the status of the Plans of Action to strengthen implementation of the human rights treaties serviced by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). They also met with Secretariat officials from the Information Service, the Travel Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva and OHCHR Administration.

12. On 22 June, the chairpersons considered the draft report on their thirteenth meeting. The report, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

13. The chairpersons tentatively agreed to hold their fourteenth meeting from 24 to 28 June 2002.

III. Address by the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

14. The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights addressed the chairpersons on the opening day of the meeting and delivered a statement on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Deputy High Commissioner, inter alia, stressed the important role of the treaty bodies in the activities of the United Nations and the Office of the High Commissioner in the field of human rights and highlighted the importance of the meeting of chairpersons. He noted the success of the Millennium Summit held in September 2000 in attracting a remarkable number of human rights treaty actions. The Deputy High Commissioner drew attention to the increasing workload faced by treaty bodies as a result of the welcome progress towards the universal ratification of human rights treaties.

15. Referring to the lack of adequate resources for the treaty bodies, the Deputy High Commissioner stressed, on behalf of the High Commissioner, that this was a constraint shared by both the Secretariat and the treaty bodies. He noted that the increase in the regular budget for human rights activities had been clearly insufficient, and that efforts to achieve further increases had been supported by the Secretary-General himself. He assured the chairpersons that the provision of adequate support to the treaty bodies continued to be a high priority for the High Commissioner and welcomed the assistance of donors. The Deputy High Commissioner also indicated that efforts would continue to consider suggestions on how to increase also the efficiency and effectiveness of the system.

16. The Deputy High Commissioner also commended the substantive contributions by the treaty bodies to the preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and expressed the hope that the treaty bodies would continue to play an active role in the next session of the Preparatory Committee, as well as in the World Conference itself.

17. The Chairperson raised with the Deputy High Commissioner the issue of a study recently concluded by Anne Bayefsky, entitled "The United Nations human rights treaty system: universality at the crossroads". The Chairperson requested a definite statement as to whether the Office of the High Commissioner associated itself with the conclusions and recommendations contained in the study. The Deputy High Commissioner indicated that the High Commissioner wished to encourage independent reflection on the functioning of the treaty bodies. While the Office of the High Commissioner had cooperated in the preparation of the study by providing information to the author, the conclusions of the study were the responsibility of its author alone. The Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights nevertheless found it alarming that many observers were apparently under the impression that the report was, at least in part, a product of the Office of the High Commissioner and suggested that the Office take urgent measures to correct such misconceptions. The other chairpersons agreed, and the Deputy High Commissioner took note of this suggestion.

IV. Review of recent developments relating to the work of the treaty bodies

18. The chairpersons briefed the meeting on recent developments in the work of their respective treaty bodies. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had examined 15 reports from States parties at its twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions in June 2000 and January 2001, respectively. More than half of them were combined reports, in accordance with decision 23/II of the Committee, in which the Committee decided, on an exceptional basis and as a temporary measure, in order to address the backlog of reports awaiting consideration, to allow States parties with overdue reports to combine them in a single document. The Committee had adopted rules of procedure for the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which had entered into force on 22 December 2000. The first meeting of the five-member working group on the Optional Protocol would be held in February 2002, immediately following the twenty-sixth session of the Committee. The Committee had also started work on a general recommendation on article 4.1 of the Convention, on temporary special measures aimed at accelerating the de facto equality between men and women. Most Committee members attended, from 5 to 10 June 2000, the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (Beijing+5). At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee adopted a statement on gender and racial discrimination to be forwarded to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

19. The Human Rights Committee had taken several measures to improve the efficacy of its working methods and coordination of activities with other human rights mechanisms. On 31 October 2000, the Committee had held its first consultation with States parties, which had been attended by more than 50 representatives. The Committee had also held a special commemorative event to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Human Rights Committee appreciated the services of the additional staff that had been employed through the Plan of Action, who were assisting it to reduce the backlog of communications. In October 2000 and March 2001, the Committee had adopted amendments to its rules of procedure that enabled it to examine the situation of civil and political rights in States the reports of which were many years overdue, if necessary, in the absence of a State party delegation. The new rules would also enable the Committee to examine reports submitted by States that failed to appear before it on two or more successive occasions. A mechanism, which may require further Secretariat resources, had also been established to improve follow-up of the concluding observations (as detailed in the revised rules of procedure of the Committee, contained in document CCPR/C/3/Rev.6 and Corr.1). The Committee now drew routinely upon the work of the special procedures mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights.

20. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights estimated that its two extraordinary sessions, one held in August 2000 and the other to be held in August 2001, would reduce the average delay in the examination of reports after submission from 30 to 36 months before 2000, to 12 to 18 months by December 2001. The Committee could have examined 17 reports over the past year but had only been able to examine 14, owing to State party requests for postponement of the scheduled examination of their reports. The situation of economic, social and cultural rights in two States parties had been examined in the absence of a report, and action was being taken on the situation in two other States parties under the follow-up procedure. The Committee was examining its methods of work, particularly to add flexibility in the periodicity of the submission of reports based on established and objective criteria and to shorten the meeting time needed for the examination of reports to three meetings for initial reports and two meetings for periodic reports, which would allow for the consideration of six, rather than five, reports per session. The Committee was examining its reporting guidelines with a view to updating or revising them, based on contemporary issues and specificities relating to periodic reports. In November 2000, it had held a day of general discussion on intellectual property and human rights, with the collaboration of the World Intellectual Property Organization, which would contribute to the drafting of a general comment on article 15 (1) (c) of the Covenant. A general comment was also being drafted

on article 3 (equal rights of men and women) and another on article 15 (1) (a) (the right to take part in cultural life). In May 2001, a consultation had been organized with United Nations bodies and agencies and other international organizations working in the field of trade and development, with the participation of national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations. This initiative had been undertaken in collaboration with the High Council for International Cooperation of France. In addition, the Committee had adopted a statement on poverty, which had been submitted to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and another to the special session of the General Assembly on human settlements (Istanbul+5).

21. The workload of the Committee against Torture had stabilized, and 14 reports and 22 communications had been examined at its last two sessions. The Committee had been conducting four inquiries under the procedure established in article 20 of the Convention. The Committee had completed one inquiry and expected to conclude another by November 2001, while a third inquiry would commence in the current year. It was noted that the procedure was resource-intensive, which made it difficult for the Committee to undertake more than one inquiry per year. The Committee had been discussing proposals for improvement of its working methods, including suggestions formulated by one State party. It had established working groups to discuss the drafting of general comments on the definition of torture, follow-up to individual communications and overall procedures. The Committee had also adopted a joint declaration, on the occasion of the commemoration of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture, the Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Committee appreciated the additional support provided through the Plan of Action which had increased its efficiency, particularly in dealing with individual communications. However, the Committee found it difficult to examine many of the issues placed before it by the Secretariat, given its workload with regard to reports, individual communications and inquiries.

22. The Committee on the Rights of the Child had examined 26 reports during its last three sessions, in line with its recent efforts to increase the number of reports examined to 9 per session. It had held a day of general discussion on the theme of State violence against children in September 2000, which would be completed by a discussion of violence against children within the family and in schools to be held in September 2001. At its twenty-sixth session, in January 2001, the Committee had adopted its first general comment, on article 29 (1) of the Convention (the aims of education), which it had submitted as a contribution to the World Conference against Racism. The general comment had been drafted with the assistance of a consultant and a first draft had been reviewed by the Committee and revised at a meeting organized by a non-governmental organization, with the participation of the Rapporteur of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNESCO. Four new members had joined the Committee at its last session and a one-day technical briefing had been held for them prior to the session, with the support of the Plan of Action. The Committee had also participated in the three sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the special session of the General Assembly on children, submitted comments on the first and second revised drafts of the outcome document and adopted a statement that had been delivered at the third session of the Preparatory Committee. The Committee had held meetings at its last session with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on adequate housing, as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to food. It had adopted a statement to the special session of the General Assembly on human settlements. The Committee favoured close coordination with the work of other treaty bodies and had adopted the practice of analysing and referring to their concluding observations on relevant issues in its own concluding observations, so as to ensure that States parties would not face conflicting views and recommendations from different treaty bodies on the same human rights issues. The Committee was considering the drafting of general comments on several topics over the next two years, including the role of national human rights institutions and ombudspersons for children in the implementation of the Convention. A working group had been set up to review the working methods of the Committee to make its recommendations more focused. One member had been mandated to prepare a working paper on reporting

periodicity and the guidelines on the preparation of periodic reports would be reviewed with the aim of alleviating the reporting burden faced by States parties, and to take account of the role that the special session of the General Assembly on children might entrust to the Committee in respect of monitoring the implementation of national plans of action. The Committee was also drafting reporting guidelines for the two Optional Protocols to the Convention. The amendment to article 43 (2) adopted in 1995 to enlarge membership of the Committee from 10 to 18 still required another 26 acceptances to enter into force. This was an urgent matter for the Committee, given its heavy workload and backlog of approximately 50 reports, the examination of which faced delays of approximately two years.

23. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, had seen the resignation of an unprecedented four members, particularly because of health and family reasons, during a five-month period. By the time of the last session in March 2001, only two States parties had been able to nominate new members to replace their nationals who had resigned, while a third State had subsequently submitted its nomination. The Committee had examined 23 reports during its last two sessions and had reviewed the situation in several States under its special review procedure. Adopted in 1991, the procedure called for the examination of the situation in a State party whose report was more than five years overdue. The Committee had found that many States parties made an additional effort to submit a report or to provide the Committee with reassurance of its impending presentation when notified of the scheduling of the examination of the situation under the special review procedure. Few individual communications had been received under the procedure established by article 14 of the Convention. Only 33 States parties, a noticeably low proportion of the parties to the Convention, had made the optional declaration accepting the procedure. In August 2000, the Committee had held its first ever thematic discussion, namely, on discrimination faced by the Roma. The Chairperson and two members of the Subcommission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism and a number of non-governmental organizations had participated in the discussion, which had resulted in the Committee adopting a comprehensive general recommendation on the discrimination faced by the Roma. The Committee had an informal understanding that allowed it to suggest to States whose reports are due within two years of the examination of a report by the Committee the joint submission of that report with the one due immediately thereafter. The Committee had reviewed its current practice of adopting concluding observations in public meetings and had decided to maintain the practice in order to maximize the transparency of its debates, subject to immediate transmission to States parties of the concluding observations as adopted. The Committee had experienced some difficulties with regard to the reliability of the information on the conduct of its business that was provided in the press releases prepared by the United Nations Department of Public Information. The Committee had also discussed criticism by some States parties of the use made of information provided by non-governmental organizations.

24. In reviewing recent developments within the treaty bodies, the chairpersons drew attention to two issues that would merit further discussion in their review of working methods, including the method of adoption (and release) of concluding observations and the use of information provided by non-governmental organizations or other sources. Some chairpersons expressed concern about the unbalanced geographical representation in their committees, and also about the need for States parties to consider the desirability of achieving an appropriate gender balance in all treaty bodies when nominating and electing members.

25. On 18 June 2001, the chairpersons held a meeting with Mr. Andrew Clapham, the Special Adviser on corporate responsibility for human rights. Mr. Clapham discussed with the chairpersons the relevance of the issue of corporate responsibility for human rights violations to the work of treaty bodies. He mentioned developments in international law that suggest that States could be held to have positive obligations to protect individuals from violation of their rights by others. He also discussed with the chairpersons how growing interest in ethical investment could provide powerful incentives for corporations to respect human rights. Mr. Clapham referred to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Article 3 of that instrument required States parties to cover under its criminal law offences

committed, not only by individuals, but also by legal persons.

26. On 19 June 2001, the chairpersons held a meeting with the Expanded Bureau of Commission on Human Rights, looking in particular at ways by which cooperation may be further enhanced between the Commission on Human Rights and the treaty bodies. The issues on the common agenda included: status of the human rights treaty bodies and their participation in the Commission; follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission which refer to the treaty bodies and other matters. The Chairperson of the meeting of persons chairing the treaty bodies and Mr. Leandro Despouy, Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights, opened the meeting. Mr. Imtiaz Hussain, Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights made a statement on behalf of the Bureau, in which he underscored the special importance accorded by the Commission to its relationship with the treaty bodies. He said that the Commission considered the treaty bodies to be important partners in the implementation of human rights standards and that the Commission had traditionally invited chairpersons of treaty bodies to attend Commission sessions whenever such a request was received.

27. The exchange of views indicated that both the Expanded Bureau of the Commission on Human Rights and the chairpersons of treaty bodies were keen on attaining greater cooperation and on finding ways by which this may be established. The chairpersons of treaty bodies indicated that they had not been aware that the Commission traditionally extended invitations for them to attend Commission sessions. The chairs expressed their wish to participate in the proceedings of the Commission on Human Rights relevant to their respective mandates and recommended that funds be made available to that end.

28. The Chairperson of the meeting informed the Expanded Bureau that the chairpersons of treaty bodies had decided that they would be enabled to present their reports in person to the United Nations organs to which their reports were submitted, and that funds should be made available for that purpose. The Expanded Bureau members supported this position. The need for equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the treaty bodies as well as for gender balance was emphasized by the chairpersons. They also highlighted efforts made by the treaty bodies to enhance cooperation with United Nations organs, as welcomed by the Commission. The chairpersons expressed appreciation for the work of the Commission on the drafting of new human rights instruments and referred also to the need to support continuing progress towards universal ratification of human rights treaties and to promote the entry into force of amendments to the treaties adopted by the meetings of States parties and the General Assembly.

29. The Expanded Bureau of the Commission suggested that the effectiveness of relations between the Commission and the treaty bodies could be enhanced if treaty bodies held sessions during or around the regular session of the Commission on Human Rights, as that would broaden participation without any budgetary implications. The chairpersons regretted that the burden that would be imposed on United Nations conference services and Secretariat support would limit such possibilities. The Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights invited the chairpersons of treaty bodies to prepare a list of proposals or suggestions on ways to clarify or improve their status in the United Nations system and pledged to convey the key points underscored by the discussion in his message to the fifty-eighth session of the Commission. He suggested that, in the future, some of the ideas put forward by the treaty bodies could be included in the resolutions of the Commission.

30. The chairpersons also held an exchange with Antoanella Iulia Motoc, Chairperson of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fifty-second session, as well as with David Weissbrodt, a member of the Subcommission. Ms. Motoc referred to a number of studies being undertaken by the Subcommission on matters of direct relevance to the treaty bodies, including on traditional practices, affirmative action, the impact of globalization and the elimination of racial discrimination. Reference was made to the possibilities afforded by the availability of the Subcommission to conduct research and studies on conceptual and thematic human rights issues. Ms. Motoc also called for the treaty bodies and the Subcommission to explore imaginative solutions that could allow increased collaboration without budgetary implications. Mr. Weissbrodt referred to the invitation addressed by an earlier meeting of chairpersons to each treaty body inviting them to consider themes on which the Subcommission could consider conducting studies. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

had drawn attention to several themes, now being studied by the Subcommission. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had recently drawn attention to several themes that would be of direct relevance to its own preoccupations. Mr. Weissbrodt suggested that a similar request addressed by the chairpersons to all treaty bodies may favour increased collaboration and coordination of efforts between the Subcommission and treaty bodies.

V. Cooperation of human rights treaty bodies with specialized agencies, United Nations departments, funds, programmes and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations

31. Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO addressed the meeting of chairpersons on 19 June 2001. He reminded them that the constitution of UNESCO mandated it to seek to further universal respect for justice, the rule of law and for human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of race, sex, language or religion. Mr. Sané referred to the programme of reform undertaken by the organization for the past two years and its attention to the challenges posed by rapid globalization. He reaffirmed the central importance of the right to education, as well as many other human rights for the work of UNESCO. Mr. Sané highlighted three areas in which the work of UNESCO could contribute to the achievement of the goals that it shared with the human rights treaty bodies: the dissemination of information on the concluding observations adopted by treaty bodies through its human rights education activities at national level; the contribution that can be made by the organization's research, action, training, capacity-building and normative development activities to areas covered by the treaty bodies; and its ability to reach a large number of relevant bodies and organization through its partnership arrangements. Mr. Sané singled out the need to ensure respect for human rights in the field of bioethics. The chairpersons expressed their appreciation for the work of UNESCO and its involvement in the work of their Committees.

32. On the afternoon of 19 June 2001, representatives of United Nations departments and agencies and other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations held a discussion with the chairpersons about the extent to which their activities could assist States parties in the implementation of recommendations issued by the treaty bodies. A full list of participants is contained in annex II to the present report.

33. Considerable progress was discernible with respect to the extent to which human rights, including cooperation with treaty bodies, was being integrated into the activities of United Nations organizations. The chairpersons welcomed this trend and called for all the organizations represented to assist the treaty bodies in assessing the usefulness of their concluding observations in guiding efforts to improve the implementation of the human rights treaties.

34. A representative of OHCHR provided information about the activities of the technical cooperation programme of the Office. He pointed out that the concluding observations of the treaty bodies were always analysed as part of the needs assessment that followed upon the formulation of a request by States of technical assistance from OHCHR. Areas traditionally covered by technical cooperation programme activities included many of particular interest to the treaty bodies, such as review of legislation, training for law enforcement officers, legal professionals and teachers, human rights education and the formulation and implementation of national human rights plans of action. Another representative of OHCHR described the work of the Office to support the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions. He called attention to the essential role that well-resourced, independent and pluralistic national human rights institutions with a broad mandate could play in monitoring the implementation of human rights treaties at national level. He also drew attention to the complementary role that could be played by institutions such as ombudspersons for children or national commissions for women. There was great scope for increased cooperation between treaty bodies and national institutions, and OHCHR activities with institutions established by more than 50 States have already involved active participation by treaty body members. Another representative of OHCHR provided brief information on the possibilities afforded to ensure that the work of treaty bodies was taken into account at the national level by United Nations country teams, primarily through the preparation of common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. Such tools improved

understanding of the relevance of human rights to the development activities of the United Nations system and provided practical channels for the implementation of human rights programming.

35. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) briefed the chairpersons on the memorandum of understanding signed by the organization and OHCHR, which focused on the provision of assistance to States for the implementation of their human rights obligations. She highlighted areas in which UNDP activities were of particular interest to the work of treaty bodies: playing a catalytic role to facilitate the involvement of relevant parties in the preparation of reports; assisting States with the dissemination of the concluding observations, through press conferences or otherwise. In addition, the representative referred to the assistance available through the joint UNDP/OHCHR "HURIST" (human rights strengthening) programme, under one of its five "windows" for ratification of the treaties. She also pointed out that civil and political rights were also now included in the activities carried out in the area of governance by almost half of all UNDP country offices. While emphasizing the usefulness of concluding observations for field offices, she highlighted the importance of treaty bodies having a better understanding of United Nations agencies, that is to say, their operational nature, their capacities, their limitations and obstacles faced in dealing with Government counterparts.

36. The representative of the Council of Europe drew attention to the important role played by the Committee of Ministers in monitoring the execution of the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights. He suggested that the Committee of Ministers had rarely found it necessary to go beyond its routine monitoring procedures or to resort to political and diplomatic measures to ensure the execution of the judgements of the Court by States parties to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

37. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) welcomed the focus of the discussion on the impact of the work of treaty bodies at the national level. A review was currently under way of WHO interaction with human rights treaty bodies, with a view to strengthening it through increased involvement of programme and country offices. Information was provided on training activities conducted by WHO for its staff, in particular on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the reporting process of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

38. The representative of UNICEF described the extensive involvement of the organization in the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. UNICEF experience suggested that the most effective way to promote active involvement of country offices in providing assistance to States to follow up on the recommendations adopted by treaty bodies was to ensure the involvement of the country offices in the entire process, including advocacy for the preparation of reports, encouraging the involvement of civil society and participation in the meetings of the pre-sessional working group of the Committees. A specific example was presented by a representative of the UNICEF country office in Kyrgyzstan, who discussed how that country office was providing assistance to the State to follow up on the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

39. The representative of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) provided information on the organization's review of the work of treaty bodies with regard to the human rights dimension of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. She noted that the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women were the only ones to include detailed recommendations in that area and urged the other treaty bodies to give greater attention to the many human rights violations to which persons infected, affected, or vulnerable in the context of the pandemic were subjected. She referred to the memorandum of understanding signed by UNAIDS and OHCHR, according to which one UNAIDS staff member situated in OHCHR could provide information on HIV/AIDS with regard to the reports examined by treaty bodies. The representative also pointed out that, as the concluding observations of treaty bodies were often transmitted only or primarily to Ministries of Foreign Affairs, other ministries more directly involved in relevant issues might not be aware of the recommendations adopted by treaty bodies.

40. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) made clear that UNHCR addressed one specific issue,

namely the situation of refugees, and its mandate to protect them was the focus of all its activities. While UNHCR followed the work of the treaty bodies, there were special difficulties in bringing to them the concerns of refugees, including the general reluctance of refugees to come forward to share their experiences and the tendency of many Governments not to include refugees among "their people" on whom they feel obliged to report. UNHCR did not transmit the concluding observations adopted by treaty bodies to its country offices.

41. According to the representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO), ILO country offices were alerted of the schedule of examination of reports by treaty bodies and were urged to pay attention to the process, as part of an effort to extend the cooperation of the organization with the treaty bodies beyond the references already being made by the Committee on Standards to State party reports and to treaty body concluding observations.

42. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund referred to meetings involving members from all treaty bodies, including one held in Glen Cove, New York in 1996, on the human rights dimensions of reproductive and sexual health. Efforts were being made to improve mainstreaming of human rights into the activities of the organization. Having gained experience with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Fund considered the time ripe for its country offices to widen their involvement in the reporting process and, in particular, to take into account the relevant concluding observations of treaty bodies in their operational activities.

43. According to the representative of the World Bank, that organization was making efforts to dispel the impression that it dictated to States the measures they must take; its role was rather to provide assistance for the design and implementation of policies that are "owned" by States. There were difficulties in taking account of the work of treaty bodies, as the national counterparts of the World Bank were mainly government departments dealing with finance and economics, while the treaty bodies often interacted with other government departments. The representative suggested that treaty bodies should be more attentive to the choices and compromises that were required in the formulation of economic policies and to the impact of globalization and market forces, which neither States nor the World Bank could control, and drew attention to the contradictions that could arise between the recommendations of treaty bodies and the decisions of the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly.

44. The representative of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child reported to the chairpersons on information received regarding the use made of treaty body concluding observations by its Liaison Unit, which facilitates the interaction between national and international non-governmental organizations and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Liaison Unit received information from national coalitions and non-governmental organizations in 17 countries, representing almost all regions. The non-governmental organizations reported on their impression of the awareness of the content of the concluding observations among different relevant government departments, on the use that non-governmental organizations make of concluding observations in their own work at the national level, on specific recommendations that they felt States were taking action on (with those referring to review of legislation being the ones mentioned most often) and on the involvement of other State institutions in the implementation of treaty body recommendations.

45. According to the representative of the International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAW), it was often easier to provide information to treaty bodies than to ensure that information about the recommendations adopted by treaty bodies was transmitted back to interested non-governmental organizations. After a decade of experience in working with the treaty bodies, IWRAW considered concluding observations of the Committees to be of great value, particularly when concerns and recommendations were formulated in a precise fashion, and examples of concrete measures taken on the basis of recommendations of treaty bodies were numerous. However, the failure of many Governments to disseminate concluding observations, the low level of public awareness of the reporting process in some countries and the consequent lack of appreciation for the value of treaty body recommendations, hindered more effective use of concluding observations. The representative of IWRAW suggested that States parties should be specifically questioned about government efforts to disseminate the concluding observations from

prior reviews and plans to disseminate those emanating from the current session, both in their lists of issues and in their guidelines for preparing reports.

46. The representative of the International Federation for Human Rights explained his organization's involvement in facilitating access to the treaty bodies by national non-governmental organizations. He highlighted the important role of the latter in raising awareness about the recommendations of treaty bodies, sometimes particularly difficult in States where human rights problems were serious.

47. The representative of Amnesty International outlined the organization's involvement in the dissemination of the concluding observations adopted by treaty bodies, including through the preparation of press releases and occasionally public appeals to States calling attention to the recommendations of treaty bodies. She suggested that national non-governmental organizations should be more involved in the work of treaty bodies and that the latter should seek to enhance their cooperation with regional human rights mechanisms.

48. The representative of the Anti-Racism Information Service described volunteer organization's work of disseminating immediate information about the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to a network of more than three thousand subscribers.

VI. Informal consultation with Governments

49. On 20 June 2001, the chairpersons held a full-day informal meeting with representatives of States, in which they exchanged views on topics relating to the treaty bodies, including some of the difficulties they face in their work. The chairpersons once again reminded States of the importance of ratifying treaties, of submitting instruments of acceptance of the proposed amendments to the various treaties, and of ensuring the allocation of sufficient resources by the Fifth Committee and through direct contributions to the annual appeal of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The chairpersons also reiterated their appeal to States parties to consider the need for gender and geographical balance in the membership of the treaty bodies and to ensure appropriate expertise given the subject-matter of the different treaties.

50. Representatives of 12 States intervened in the discussion, which was attended by representatives of 59 States. Representatives expressed their States' support and encouragement of the work of the treaty bodies under their respective mandates, which they considered to be central to the international human rights system and, in particular, for the continued efforts of the treaty bodies to rationalize their working methods to deal with their growing workloads.

51. Particular mention was made of the effectiveness of some practices, such as procedures used by treaty bodies to address the periodicity of reports and the problem of overdue reports in ways that can contribute to alleviating the difficulties experienced by many States in fulfilling their reporting obligations in spite of its value as a learning experience that assists States in making progress in the implementation of human rights treaties. Suggestions and recommendations were offered with regard to the process of improvement of the working methods of treaty bodies, particularly with regard to the need to ensure consistency of normative interpretation. Representatives of several States renewed the expression of interest formulated during the meeting held one year earlier in learning whether the Committees had come any closer in harmonizing their working practices.

52. Representatives of several States expressed their support for the role of non-governmental organizations in providing additional information to treaty bodies. Several interventions suggested that it might be appropriate for the treaty bodies to ensure that such information is received in sufficient time to enable treaty body members to review it. Information found to be useful and credible should be fully reflected in questions by treaty bodies which, as far as possible, should be sent to State delegations in sufficient time for them to be able to prepare for a productive dialogue with the Committee. Representatives of States welcomed the efforts of many treaty bodies to reduce the number of questions posed to States for the examination of reports both prior to and during the dialogue, and encouraged efforts to ensure that concluding observations address the specific circumstances of each State.

53. A number of delegations also expressed interest in the precedent set by the Human Rights Committee,

which had held a meeting with States parties to the Covenant during its October 2000 session, and about plans of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to hold a similar meeting during its forthcoming session in November 2001.

54. Delegations expressed appreciation for the opportunity to have an informal dialogue with the chairpersons and for the more focused and substantive exchange made possible by the longer meeting. The chairpersons agreed that a full day should be set aside for informal consultation with States at its fourteenth meeting, with an agenda prepared sufficiently in advance to enable all participants to engage in a focused exchange on selected key issues.

VII. Joint meeting with participants of the eighth meeting of special rapporteurs and representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures system of the Commission on Human Rights and of the advisory services programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

55. The third joint meeting, held on 21 June 2001 between the chairpersons and the special rapporteurs and representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures system of the Commission on Human Rights and of the advisory services programme, was welcomed.

56. The Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights addressed the issue of resources, recalling that, despite some recent gains in posts, the staffing situation continued to be difficult. There had been a net loss of six posts for the human rights programme of the United Nations between 1994 and 2001. In this regard, the High Commissioner would be seeking from the next biennium the establishment of a substantial number of additional posts. Equally important, however, was the role of treaty bodies and special procedures. Their continual efforts to improve and modernize their own working methods were central to the effectiveness of the human rights programme.

57. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights addressed, and exchanged views with, the chairpersons and the mandate holders of special procedures during the meeting. She expressed her appreciation for the contributions made by all the treaty bodies and many of the special procedures to the preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and encouraged all human rights mechanisms to continue to contribute to a successful outcome of the Conference.

58. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of the High Commissioner in supporting improved collaboration between and among the treaty bodies and the special procedures. The High Commissioner welcomed the substantive discussion and useful suggestions made by participants. She pointed out that a review conducted by her Office on the outcome of the second joint meeting had concluded that confidentiality concerns would not be a major barrier to the exchange of information; that, as demonstrated by examples cited during the meeting, some productive collaboration was already taking place; that the challenges faced by the mechanisms, with her full encouragement and support, was to encourage such cooperation among all mechanisms; that resource constraints continued to be a significant factor; and that the working methods of the different mechanisms could facilitate or hinder collaboration.

59. The High Commissioner and experts raised the need for adequate administrative and substantive support for both the treaty bodies and the special procedures. They also discussed the need for treaty bodies and special procedures to contribute expertise to the international financial institutions in their efforts to explore the human rights issues that arose in their work.

60. Suggestions made during the meeting to improve collaboration among treaty bodies and special procedures included the following areas of common concern:

(a) The continuing need to improve the exchange of information between the treaty bodies and the special procedures mandates. The implementation of recommendations adopted after previous meetings in this respect was found wanting;

(b) The need to systematize collaboration and the exchange of information, rather than rely on the

valuable but ad hoc initiatives of some mechanisms, individual experts or staff members;

(c) The possibility of increasing opportunities for interaction among treaty bodies and special procedures, as well as with the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

61. The recommendations of the joint meeting are presented in paragraphs 86 to 89 below.

VIII. Status of the Plans of Action

A. Update on activities under the Plans of Action

62. The chairpersons were briefed by the Secretariat on the status of the three Plans of Action for the Geneva-based treaty bodies, which have been incorporated into a global project, included in the consolidated annual appeals of the High Commissioner to donors for extrabudgetary contributions. The chairpersons expressed satisfaction at the additional support provided through the Plans of Action, with the chairpersons of the Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee indicating the noticeable effect on their activities of the increased support, and the chairpersons of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child indicating that their current workload could not be maintained without such additional support. The chairpersons expressed concern about the lack of certainty attached to the continuation of such support and the prospects for additional support that would be required for some of the additional enhancements to the effectiveness of their working methods that were currently being discussed. The Secretariat informed the chairpersons that the global project would be continued through a three-year programme drawn up for the biennium 2002-2004 and that the High Commissioner was hopeful of continued interest from donors in ensuring that the improved support to the important work of treaty bodies that had been possible under the plans.

B. Inter-Committee meeting on common approaches

63. The chairpersons revisited the idea of holding a meeting among members of all treaty bodies to develop a common approach to specific common issues. They noted the three ideas for such a meeting that were proposed by the Secretariat in a background document of the present meeting,[1] namely on periodicity, human trafficking and reservations to the treaties. The chairpersons considered that the first such meeting should address questions relating to the methods of work of the treaty bodies, rather than a substantive theme, which could be taken up at a future such inter-Committee meeting. They further stressed the need for strong involvement by the Secretariat, including through the preparation of background papers and direct participation in the meeting.

IX. World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

64. On 18 June 2001, Mr. Jyoti Singh, Executive Coordinator of the World Conference, briefed the chairpersons about the status of preparations for the World Conference. He reported on the progress accomplished during the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference, the continuing work of the Group of 21 on the draft Declaration and Programme of Action, and the holding of the third session of the Preparatory Committee in Geneva from 30 July to 10 August 2001. Mr. Singh briefed the chairpersons about arrangements being made for travel and lodging of the two members of each treaty body (and additional members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) that would be invited to attend the Conference. Finally, he clarified that other members of treaty bodies that planned to attend the World Conference through sponsorship of or in association with other organizations would be accredited as members of treaty bodies.

65. The chairpersons updated each other on the contributions made by each treaty body to the preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. They asked for the rapid transmission of the latest draft Declaration and Programme of Action to members of treaty bodies, to allow them to transmit relevant statements to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference. The chairpersons also urged Mr. Singh to ensure urgent completion of all the necessary

formalities to allow treaty body members to finalize their arrangements for participation at the World Conference.

66. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had participated very actively in preparations for the World Conference and would continue to do so. The Committee had finalized its comprehensive written contribution in January 2001, addressing the five main themes of the World Conference. The Committee had also adopted suggestions and comments on the Secretariat draft for the Declaration and Programme of Action, discussed with the coordinators of the five regional groups and with the Chairperson of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference. The Committee had participated in the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee. The Chairperson and five of its members (one from each regional group) would participate in the World Conference.

67. The Human Rights Committee had submitted at the second session of the Preparatory Committee its contribution to the World Conference and had been represented at the two sessions of the Preparatory Committee, as well as at two of the regional preparatory conferences.

68. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had submitted its general comments Nos. 11 and 13, on the right to education, at the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee and had formulated suggestions on the draft Declaration and Programme of Action with regard to the right to education and to poverty.

69. As its contribution to the World Conference, the Committee on the Rights of the Child had submitted its first general comment on the topic of the aims of education (article 29 (1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child). The Committee had adopted a statement containing comments for the draft Declaration and Plan of Action, focusing on child rights and right to education issues.

70. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had adopted a statement submitted at the second session of the Preparatory Committee. One of its members had participated in the Preparatory Committee, and representatives would also participate in the World Conference.

71. The Committee against Torture had adopted a resolution for submission at the second session of the Preparatory Committee. It would be represented at the World Conference by two members.

72. The chairpersons agreed that a common statement by the treaty bodies should be made to the World Conference and entrusted the chairperson of the meeting to make such a statement on their behalf.

X. Other matters

73. The chairpersons expressed deep dissatisfaction at the continuing inequality of treatment of experts, whereby members of three treaty bodies had received a token honorarium and others had received none. They considered the system not only to be unfair to individual experts, but also to contradict the principles of indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights, which were the foundations of the international human rights system. They regretted that the Secretary-General had failed to respond to the letter addressed to him in this regard by the Chairperson of the twelfth meeting of chairpersons.

74. On 22 June 2001, the chairpersons were briefed, along with the special mandate holders, by two staff members of the Travel Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva and by a member of the Administration Unit of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the rules, regulations and practices affecting the travel of experts who are serviced by OHCHR. The chairpersons expressed deep dissatisfaction about several instances of insistence by relevant United Nations services on the use of a specific airline, which might lead to the delayed arrival of experts at meetings or require time-consuming efforts to resolve. The chairpersons decried the practice of requiring experts to travel by airlines selected solely on the basis of cost, since such airlines were often the least comfortable and had no amenities for travellers on long flights, which caused fatigue and ill-health for many days following arrival.

75. The chairpersons noted that the chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women traditionally attended the relevant part of the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Commission on the Status of Women. In addition, she had made a statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly during its

consideration of the agenda item on the advancement of women, under which the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had been submitted. The chairpersons of the other five treaty bodies discussed the need to ensure that chairpersons or their representatives could present in person the reports of their treaty bodies to the relevant United Nations organs that consider their reports. A unanimous decision had been adopted in this respect.

76. The chairpersons met with representatives of the Information Service of the United Nations Office at Geneva. They discussed, inter alia, concerns of the Geneva-based treaty bodies about: the quality of press releases issued by the Department of Public Information; the absence in press releases of attribution of remarks to individual speakers; the tone of press releases; and the way in which information about the work of the treaty bodies was disseminated to the media, both in Geneva and at the national level, with respect to those countries examined at sessions of the treaty bodies.

77. The Director of the Information Service of the United Nations Office at Geneva informed the chairpersons that many of the problems faced by her unit were owing to a lack of human resources. Currently, only one press officer commonly covered an entire session's morning and afternoon meetings. The contents of press releases were reviewed for tone and objectivity before being released. It was not materially possible under such circumstances to provide more detailed press releases. In addition, the tone of the press releases reflected the actual proceedings that had been covered, that is to say, they were as interesting or as critical as the statements made during the proceedings. In that regard, it was suggested that members of the treaty bodies themselves needed to find ways of making treaty body information more interesting, particularly to media personnel who attended press conferences. A system had been set in place in recent years whereby the press releases and concluding observations were automatically sent to the United Nations information centres based in the regions and countries that were the subject of those documents, and samples of national press coverage of the concerned treaty body were occasionally requested for informal assessments of their impact.

78. It was agreed that new and creative ways of ensuring accuracy and eliciting more interest among the media could be found. It was pointed out that the media environment in Geneva was conducive to having good human rights coverage, as many journalists in Geneva specialized in that area.

XI. Recommendations

79. The chairpersons agreed that the agenda of their fourteenth meeting should contain an item on follow-up to the recommendations of their thirteenth meeting.

80. The chairpersons recommended that the practice of holding an informal meeting with representatives of States parties should be continued at the fourteenth meeting. They requested the Office of the High Commissioner to organize such a meeting, of one full day's duration, and to consult with them and the States parties about a possible agenda.

81. The chairpersons strongly recommended that the Chairperson of the current meeting should address a letter to the Secretary-General, in follow-up to the one sent in 2000 by the previous Chairperson, concerning the equal payment of honorariums to members of all treaty bodies.

82. The chairpersons adopted a unanimous decision that treaty body chairpersons, or their designated members, would attend meetings of the United Nations organs to which their reports were submitted at the time that the reports were being considered. They requested the Office of the High Commissioner to provide the funding to implement that decision, if necessary, through the Plans of Action.

83. The chairpersons agreed that the first inter-Committee meeting should be held on the subject of methods of work and reservations to the human rights treaties. Accordingly, they requested that the Secretariat organize a meeting on that subject, either in Geneva or in New York, not excluding other possibilities, and recommended that each Committee should, as far as possible, be represented by its chairperson and two other members. They further requested that the Secretariat determine the dates and other details of the meeting in close consultation with the chairpersons and prepare background documents on the working methods of each treaty body.

84. The chairpersons agreed that a common statement by the treaty bodies should be made to the World Conference. They entrusted the Chairperson of the meeting to make such a statement on their behalf in his

capacity as the Chairperson of the meeting, drawing on their contributions to the preparatory process of the Conference. A draft statement should be circulated as soon as possible among all the chairpersons for their approval.

85. The chairpersons recommended that the treaty bodies should consider ways of strengthening collaboration with the Subcommission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. In particular, they recommended that the treaty bodies consider and propose to the Subcommission possible topics for studies that could be undertaken by the latter.

A. Recommendations of the joint meeting with the special procedures system

86. The Secretariat was requested to prepare, in writing, a concise background note setting out the status of implementation of recommendations emanating from the current joint meeting.

B. Improving collaboration and the exchange of information between treaty bodies and the special procedures mandates

87. Participants at the joint meeting made many useful suggestions regarding the need to systematize efforts to ensure collaboration and the exchange of information and requested the Office of the High Commissioner to make every effort to ensure their implementation through systematic institutionalized mechanisms, particularly the following:

(a) As recommended by the second joint meeting, urgent efforts should be made to ensure the periodic distribution, to all members of treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders of a list of planned country visits of special procedures mandate holders and the schedule of the consideration of reports of States parties to the major human rights treaties;

(b) All treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders, as well as Subcommission rapporteurs, should draw up a list of other mechanisms with which they are working and of those with which they would like to work more closely;

(c) Checklists should be drawn up for each treaty body and special procedure of all the relevant information from other human rights mechanisms that could be taken into account by each treaty body and special procedure;

(d) Any documents drawn up to detail collaboration arrangements among different mechanisms should be circulated to all treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders;

(e) All non-confidential information emanating from any of the treaty bodies and special procedures should be automatically and systematically drawn to the attention of all members of treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders. Use of a mechanism such as a "list-serv" for those experts using e-mail could be explored in this regard;

(f) All non-confidential information received by a treaty body for the examination of a report should be available to staff working for special procedures;

(g) Efforts should be made to disseminate more widely the expertise accumulated in the jurisprudence and other work of the treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders. An example would be the preparation of a thematic compilation of the opinions of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention;

(h) Increased emphasis should be placed on organizing meetings between special procedures mandate holders and the treaty bodies. At a minimum, advantage may be taken of the presence of special procedures mandate holders in Geneva during a treaty body session.

C. Thematic discussion

88. The participants agreed that the fourth joint meeting in June 2002 should be dedicated in part to a joint discussion on the role of the human rights mechanisms in the follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

D. Fourth joint meeting

89. The participants agreed to schedule a half-day joint meeting during their respective annual meetings in 2001.

Notes

[1] HRI/MC/2001/2.

Annex I

Agenda of the thirteenth meeting of chairpersons

(adopted on 18 June 2001)

1. Opening of the meeting and election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organizational and other matters.
4. Follow-up to the recommendations of the twelfth meeting.
5. Review of recent developments relating to the work of the treaty bodies.
6. Status of the annual appeal 2001 of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and of the Plans of Action:
   (a) To strengthen the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
   (b) To strengthen the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
   (c) To strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
7. National-level implementation of treaty body recommendations.
8. Strengthening support to and enhancing the effectiveness of the treaty bodies.
9. Informal consultations with States.
10. Joint meeting with the eighth meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights.
11. Adoption of the report and setting of dates for the fourteenth meeting of chairpersons.

Annex II

Participants in the thirteenth meeting of chairpersons

A. States parties

(meeting with States parties on 20 June 2001)

Algeria
Mr. Chems-Eddine Zelaci, Counsellor

Argentina
Ms. Norma Nascimbene de Dumont, Minister

Australia
Mr. Les Luck, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Mr. Peter Hayward, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative
Ms. Libby Bunyan, Attorney-General's Department, Canberra
Ms. Amanda Gorely, Deputy of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra

Austria
Ms. Gabriela Kuehtreiber, Counsellor

Azerbaijan
Mr. Ismayil Asadov, Third Secretary

Bhutan
Ms. Pema Choden, First Secretary

Brazil
Mr. Frederico Meyer, Minister

Bulgaria
Mr. Dimiter Gantchev, Minister Plenipotentiary

Canada
Ms. Anna Kapellas, Third Secretary

Chile
Mr. Pedro Oyarce, Minister Counsellor
Mr. Luis Maurelia, Third Secretary

China
Mr. Ren Yisheng, First Secretary

Colombia
Ms. Ana Maria Prieto, Counsellor

Costa Rica
Mr. Alejandro Rolano, Minister Counsellor
Mr. C. Houstian Guillermet, Minister Counsellor

Cuba
Mr. Jorge Ferrer

Cyprus
Ms. Frances-Galatia Williams, Deputy Permanent Representative
Ms. Helena Mina, Second Secretary

Czech Republic
Ms. Ivana Schellongova, Second Secretary

Denmark
Ms. Eva Grambye, First Secretary

Egypt
Mr. Ibrahim Salama, Counsellor

Estonia
Ms. Kersti Alt, Third Secretary

Finland
Mr. Pekka Huhtaniemi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Mr. Erik Af Hällström, First Secretary

France
Mr. Jefferson Mouzas

Germany
Mr. Walter Lewalter, Permanent Representative
Mr. Peter Rothen, First Counsellor
Mr. Robert Dieter, First Secretary

Guatemala
Mr. Antonio Arenales, Ambassador Permanent Representative
Mr. Carlo Rodriguez, Minister Counsellor

Haiti
Mrs. Moetsi Duchatellier, First Secretary

Holy See
Mr. Edgar Peña, Counsellor

India
Mr. Sharat Sabaharwal, Deputy Permanent Representative

Israel
Mr. Yaakov Levy, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Mr. Tuvia Israeli, Deputy Permanent Representative

Italy
Mr. Guiseppe Calvetta, First Counsellor

Japan
Mr. Takashi Shibuta, First Secretary
Ms. Naoko Maepa, Special Assistant

Jordan
Ms. Saja S. Miyali, Third Secretary

Latvia
Mr. Raimonds Jansons, Counsellor

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Mrs. Najat Al-Hajjaji, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Malaysia
Mr. Hasrudin Hamzah, Deputy Permanent Representative
Ms. Fenny Nuli, Second Secretary

Morocco
Ms. Jalila Houmane, Minister Counsellor

Mexico
Ms. Alicia Elena Péres Duarte, Counsellor

Monaco
Mr. Jean-Philippe Bertani, Second Secretary

Nepal
Mr. Nabiz B. Shresiha, Minister Counsellor

Netherlands
Mr. Henk Cor van der Kwask, Counsellor

New Zealand
Ms. Deborah Geels, Counsellor

Nigeria
Mr. K. U. Ateb, Senior Counsellor

Peru
Mr. Juan Pablo Vegas, First Secretary

Philippines
Mr. Denis Lepatan, Minister

Poland
Mr. Toman Knothe, Minister Counsellor

Republic of Korea
Mr. Kang-il Hu, First Secretary

Slovakia
Ms. Barbara Illková, Deputy Permanent Representative and Counsellor

Slovenia
Mr. Andrai Zidar, Second Secretary

South Africa
Mr. Haiko Alfeld, First Secretary

Sri Lanka
Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Mr. S. S. Ganegama Arachchi, Counsellor

Sweden
Ms. Christine Lindberg, First Secretary

Switzerland
Mr. Vigny Jean-Daniel, Minister

Syrian Arab Republic
Mr. Suleiman Sarra, Minister Counsellor

Thailand
Ms. Phantipha Iamsudha, First Secretary

Turkey
Mr. Tolga Kaya, Third Secretary

Ukraine
Ms. Ivanna Markina, Second Secretary

United Arab Emirates
Mr. Mohamed Hilal, First Secretary
Mr. Ben Amara Belhassen

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. Kevin Lyne, First Secretary
Mr. Mark Armstrong

United States of America
Mr. Steven Solomon, Attaché
Ms. Veemayoury Baccam, Second Secretary
Ms. Erin Porter

Viet Nam
Mr. Duong Chi-Dung, Counsellor

Yugoslavia
Ms. Mirjana Radic, Minister Counsellor
Mr. Aleksandar Radovanovic, Counsellor
Ms. Susana Boskovic-Prodanovic, Attaché

B. United Nations departments, specialized agencies, funds and programmes

Name and title	*Organization*
Ms. Jane Connors, Chief, Women's Rights Unit	United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women
Ms. Marie Heuzé, Director Mr. Jameleddine Ben Yahmed, Chief, Press Section	United Nations Information Service in Geneva
Ms. Miriam Maluwa, Law, Human Rights and Ethics Adviser	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
Ms. Odile Sorgho-Moulinier, Director, UNDP Office at Geneva Mr. Bertrand Coppens, Deputy Director, UNDP Office at Geneva	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Name and title	*Organization*
Mr. Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences Mr. Rudolf Joo, Director, Division of Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance Mr. Vladimir Volodine, Senior Programme Specialist, Division of Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. Alejandro Cedenos, Senior Protection Officer Mr. William Kirtley	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Ms. Lesley Miller, Regional Office for Europe Mr. Ken Maskall, Office in Kyrgyzstan	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Mr. Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, Special Representative to the United Nations and the World Trade Organization in Geneva	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)
Ms. Ana Angarita, Coordinator, Gender and Reproductive Rights Ms. Ewa Orzechowska	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Mr. Martin Oelz	International Labour Organization (ILO)
Mr. Norman Scott, Consultant	International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Ms. Helena Nygren-Krug, Human Rights Adviser	World Health Organization (WHO)

C. Intergovernmental organizations

Name and title	*Organization*
Mr. S. Günter Nagel, Head of the Department for the Execution of Judgements of the European Court of Human Rights	Council of Europe
	Organization of African Unity
Ms. Helena Pejic, Legal Adviser, Legal Division	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

D. Non-governmental organizations

Name and title	*Organization*
Ms. Debra Long Mr. Mark Thomson	Association for the Prevention of Torture
Ms. Gina Bark Ms. Antoine Madelin, Permanent Delegate	International Federation of Human Rights
Mr. Adrien-Claude Zoller, Director Mr. Morris Tidball-Binz Ms. Marianne Berndtsson Ms. Alison Graham Ms. Patricia Prentice Ms. Sjeanne Kamphorst	International Service for Human Rights
Ms. Marsha Freeman, Director	International Women's Rights Action Watch
Ms. Laura Theytaz-Bergman Ms. Denise Allen Ms. Katie Reed	NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child
Mr. Anselmo Lee, Secretary-General	Pax Romana
Ms. Anki Flores Ms. Margaret Furth	Anti-Racism Information Service
Ms. Loubra Freih, Associate United Nations Representative	Human Rights Watch
Ms. Sophie Marsac	Amnesty International